

(iii) optionally mixing said first granulate with one or more further components to produce a second granulate;

(iv) optionally compressing said first or second granulate to form tablets.

Claim 2 (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said calcium compound is selected from calcium carbonate, calcium lactate, calcium gluconate, calcium citrate, calcium glycerophosphate, calcium phosphate, calcium hydrogen phosphate, calcium glucuronate, calcium aspartate, calcium glucoheptonate and mixtures of two or more thereof.

Claim 3 (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said calcium compound is calcium carbonate.

Claim 4 (previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said calcium compound makes up 68 to 80% wt. of said first granulate.

Claim 5 (previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said calcium compound makes up 60 to 95% wt. of said second granulate.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein step [(i)] ii of claim 1 the same material is used as said diluent and as said buffer.

Claim 7 (previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said water-soluble diluent comprises at least one sweetener.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 7 wherein said sweetener is [selected from] at least one component selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, xylitol, isomalt, mannitol, sucrose, fructose, maltodextrin, inulin and oligofructose.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim [9] 8 wherein said water-soluble diluent makes up 70-96% wt. of the total weight of said water-soluble diluent and said water-soluble binder in said first granulate.

Claim 10 (previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said water-soluble binder is selected from celluloses, polysaccharides, maltodextrin, inulin and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 11 (previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said water-soluble binder is polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said first granulate of claim 3 has a particle size distribution of $D(V, 0.1) = 15-21 \mu\text{m}$, $D(V, 0.5) = 70-120 \mu\text{m}$ and $D(V, 0.9) = 190-330 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein a said further component is mixed with said first granulate, said further component being [selected from] at least one component selected from the group consisting of: vitamin B₆, vitamin K, vitamin C, vitamin D, isoflavones, inulin, and oligofructose and mixtures of two or more thereof.

Claim 14 (previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein in step (ii) said calcium compound is also mixed with isoflavones.

Claim 15 (canceled) A granulate comprising a fluid bed granulation granulate product of a physiologically tolerable calcium compound, a water-soluble binder and a water-soluble diluent, said calcium compound having a mean particle size in the range of 3 to 40 µm, having a crystalline structure and having a surface area of 0.1 to 1.2 m²/g.

Claim 16 (canceled) A granulate as claimed in claim 15 further comprising a lubricant.

Claim 17 (canceled) a granulate as claimed in either of claims 15 and 16 wherein said calcium compound is selected from calcium carbonate, calcium lactate, calcium gluconate, calcium citrate, calcium glycerophosphate, calcium phosphate, calcium hydrogen phosphate, calcium glucuronate, calcium aspartate, calcium glucoheptonate and mixtures of two or more thereof.

Claim 18 (canceled) A granulate as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17 said diluent is a sweetener selected from sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, sucrose, fructose, maltodextrin, inulin, and oligofructose.

Claim 19 (canceled) A granulate as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18 wherein said water-soluble binder is selected from celluloses, polysaccharides, maltodextrin,, inulin and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 20 (canceled) A granulate as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 19 a further component selected from: vitamin B₆, vitamin K, vitamin C, vitamin D, isoflavones, inulin, and oligofructose and mixtures of two or more thereof.

Claim 21 (canceled) A tablet comprising a compressed granulate as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20 containing: calcium carbonate; vitamin D₃; a lubricant; citric acid; and an oligosaccharide.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 8, 9, 12, and 13 have been amended. These claim amendments were submitted in an effort to expedite prosecution. Claim 9 stands objected to for improper dependence. Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 first and second paragraphs and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).